

Kay and Jim Hines

Guatemalan Girls Life Project

Hesed Life Ministries International

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Colossians 1

16 For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

With the new year comes January and with January in Guatemala comes the new school year. Education remains the cornerstone of our involvement in the lives of these ladies.

We have been very busy communicating with our participants, reviewing their courses of study, expenses and transportation issues. Some of the ladies will have a few classes that are in person but most classes remain online. We have four new participants. We will introduce them and then give updates on some of the others. We now have 16 active participants.

María Raquel Torres Choc

As with all but one of our participants, we initially knew Raquel as a resident at Prince of Peace Home for Girls. She was at the home for 4 ½ years from the age of 12-15. It had been over 10 years since we had seen her when she contacted us and wanted to meet with us when we were in Guatemala in November 2021. Kay remembered her as struggling to get along with other girls in the home.

She now has two girls, ages 3 and 6 years. We met with her and her “husband” who is not the father of her children. They seem to have a stable relationship and he appears very committed to her and her children. He is employed repairing medical laboratory equipment and speaks good English.

She needs one year to complete high school. Her classes will be in person. Then she wants to study physical therapy which would be 5-7 years. She has a hereditary hearing loss. She has hearing aids but no batteries so she will need help with this.



Jennifer Paola Ramon Samol

Jennifer is the younger sister of Yojana Samol. Yojana is in the program and is studying to be a social worker. Jennifer wants to study English to be able to secure employment in a call center. Jennifer came to POP Home in 2008 and left in 2020. Spending 12 years at a Girls Home does make it your home.

Although both girls were at the home for many years, they have a father and mother who visited them at most opportunities and did provide emotional support for them. The father of the family is addicted to alcohol and has not been able to break free from it. The 2 sisters have numerous brothers and sisters who are younger.

Prince of Peace has given a good life to Yojana and Jennifer and they are both grateful as is their family. Jennifer has a job as a nanny while she is taking English classes. Jennifer and Kay work online on pronunciation of English which is difficult for Spanish speakers.



Jennifer, Yojana, Kay, Adela and (sitting) Deisy

Gabriela Fernanda Centeno Sánchez

Gaby Sanchez was 11 years old when she came to POP Home and was there for 2 years. Gaby's mom worked at Fraternidad Church where the girls from the Home attended church and Gaby was always so happy to see her Mom there. The Mom had a job making tortillas at the snack bar which did not pay well.

Gaby was happy and positive and always made good grades. Upon leaving the Home, the family moved to Costa Rica where she now lives. She was originally from Nicaragua. Gaby has 2 children and a Costa Rican husband. Gaby's desire is to become a nurse. Once she completes school, she will have to achieve legal status in Costa Rica prior to being able to work there.



Emely Yessenia Beteta Castellanos

Emely is the lone participant in GGLP not known to us as a resident at Prince of Peace Home for Girls but we know very well and love deeply her grandmother, Desi, who has been the cook at Prince of Peace for 35 years.

When we visit Guatemala, Desi always prepares a special breakfast for us but in November she also wanted to meet us at a restaurant for breakfast. We were delighted to meet with her but even more so when she introduced us to her granddaughter Emely. She seems to be a very responsible young lady with a strong relationship to God.

She has 2 more years to finish high school and as is the custom in Guatemala, she will focus on a particular area. For her it will be a pre-dental program. Her family will cover much of the expense and we will supplement.



Emely, her grandmother Desi and Kay

Mayra

Mayra and her husband have managed to stay well throughout the Covid pandemic. Her husband continues to work as a waiter at a country club. Their son Dylan is now 5 years old and is in pre-school.

Mayra has completed 4 years of her 6 year law school program. The last year was a difficult one for her. She was home schooling her son and this took more time than she thought it would. Her plan this year is to have a relative help her.

Mayra's computer was very old and because all her classes are online it was a major problem. We were able to take her a laptop when we went in November for which she was most grateful. As often happens, then her printer stopped working and we were able to replace it. She has many papers to write for school.



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Fabiola

During our visit to Guatemala in November we were able to meet with Fabiola and her older sister Heidy. This was the first time we had met Heidy. As we discussed in the September newsletter, Fabiola was forced by her family to leave the family home and buy a small piece of land. She is living on the land in a very small, one room primitive structure with a dirt floor, laminate sides and tin roof. Her sons Dylan age 8 and Christopher age 3 1/2, live with her and visit the father on weekends.

The only good part is that Heidy lives 100ft away and has been a big help for Fabiola. The two work together on the weekends cooking and selling French fries and fried chicken. For the first time she was able to talk to us about her husband who had completely isolated her from her family.

She had stopped English classes and was not seeing the psychologist, Ninoska. We informed her that if she did not continue with English classes and did not see Ninoska on a regular basis, she could not continue in the program and we would not be able to financially help her. She understood and agreed to resume classes and visit with Ninoska. She is also making a greater effort to participate twice a week with Kay online to work on her English. We will monitor this on a monthly basis.



Fabiola with her sister, Heidy